
**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 13, 2006
5:00 p.m.
Human Resources
Pinnacle Training Room
7575 E. Main Street
Scottsdale, Arizona**



DRAFT SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: John Tutelman, Chairman/Commissioner
Michèle TaTiana deLaFreniere, Vice-Chair/Chair
Carol Padwe, Commissioner
Enid Seiden, Commissioner/Vice-Chair
Theodore Tyler, Commissioner (arrived 5:27)

ABSENT: Marty Gendron, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT: Don Logan, Office of Diversity & Dialogue

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Scottsdale Human Relations Commission was called to order by Chairman Tutelman at 5:07 p.m. A formal roll call confirmed Commissioners present as stated above.

2. **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

COMMISSIONER SEIDEN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2005 MEETING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PADWE, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0).

3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Scottsdale Human Relation Commission By-Laws require that Officers (Chairperson and Vice Chairperson) are to be elected (by Commission members) at the first meeting in January. The January meeting was canceled and this is the first meeting of the year. The Commission will accept nominations and elect a Chair and Vice Chair at this meeting.

It was the consensus of the Commissioners to postpone election of officers until Commissioner Tyler arrived.

4. **REGIONAL HRC DAY LABORER SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Commissioner Gendron will provide an update to SHRC concerning the Regional HRC Day Laborer Forum meeting held on January 24, 2006 in Tempe. This discussion includes, but is not limited to answering and asking questions and providing explanation for clarification.

Chairman Tutelman noted that Commissioner Gendron was expected to provide the update.

Mr. Logan mentioned that this item was placed on the agenda because Commissioner Gendron circulated an e-mail debriefing of the meeting held on January 24; it was not anticipated that Commissioner Gendron would not be available for a presentation.

Mr. Logan recalled the e-mail indicated that the event was not well attended, noting more staff presence than Commissioner presence. In response to a question by Commissioner Padwe, Mr. Logan indicated he believed one explanation of low attendance would be conflicting events. He warned with the new Lowe's going in on McDowell and Hayden, day laborers could become a problem in that area.

Chairman Tutelman offered a unique perspective to the day labor situation. He mentioned that as the supervisor of the Community Prosecution Bureau, he had an opportunity to communicate with the Phoenix Police Department and the Phoenix City Prosecutors Office about their approach toward the day labor situation at Thomas and 36th Street. He reviewed that the businesses in the shopping center on that corner collaborated their security and posted no trespassing signs in both English and Spanish and then the Phoenix Police Department went out with community relations people, as well as neighborhood enforcement teams, to hand out warnings. People returning to the property after having been warned are given a citation or arrested. Chairman Tutelman noted that the Phoenix Police are also doing traffic enforcement against vehicles that block traffic while stopping to pick up workers.

Chairman Tutelman clarified that if given a citation, the would-be worker usually would get a nominal fine or one day, time served.

Commissioner Seiden expressed sympathy for the workers because although they are trespassing, they are trying to make a living. Chairman Tutelman responded that as long as they are on the sidewalk and not on the shopping center property there is no crime because a person has a constitutional right to loiter on public streets and in parks. He further explained that arrests are not made unless people are doing something illegal such as being there before hours, selling items, or camping.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Padwe, Mr. Logan reported that the Scottsdale Police Department is not involved with the potential situation in Scottsdale as of yet. He elaborated that the City Planning Staff is working with Lowe's to address what can preemptively be done to address the issue of day labor at the McDowell location.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Tutelman noted terms usually end in January, however the January meeting was the Martin Luther King dinner.

Commissioner Seiden recommended that Chairman Tutelman remain Chair. Chairman Tutelman expressed concern about the organization becoming stale.

Mr. Logan clarified that the Bylaws state that no more than two consecutive terms of Chair or Vice-Chair may be served. Commissioner Tyler recalled when creating the Bylaws, Commissioners felt an organization may not be as vibrant as possible with different people at the helm.

Chairman Tutelman offered his assistance to any Commissioner transitioning to the position of Chair.

Mr. Logan reported that the Commission has the power to change the Bylaws with a vote of no less than five commissioners. Commissioner Seiden inquired whether Chairman Tutelman would be willing to keep his position if the Bylaws were changed. Chairman Tutelman had no objection. Commissioner Seiden proposed to amend the Bylaws. Commissioner Tyler noted his willingness to amend the Bylaws but expressed concern about the organization being able to move forward with a fresh perspective.

In response to inquiry by Chairman Tutelman, Commissioner Tyler explained that he would not be willing to perform the duties of Chair because of other obligations. Vice-Chair deLaFreniere volunteered to serve as Chair.

COMMISSIONER SEIDEN MOVED THAT VICE-CHAIR DELAFRENIERE BE ELECTED CHAIR. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PADWE, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

Mr. Logan proposed the election of a Vice-Chair. Commissioner Seiden asked what the responsibilities of that position include. Mr. Logan read directly from the Bylaws for the record as follows: "The Commission shall, at its first meeting every January, elect a Vice-Chair person from among its appointed Commissioners who shall serve in the absence of the Chair. The term of the Vice-Chair shall be one year. The Vice-Chair shall serve in the same capacity for no more than two consecutive one year terms."

COMMISSIONER TUTELMAN MOVED THAT COMMISSIONER SEIDEN BE ELECTED VICE-CHAIR. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TYLER, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

Chair deLaFreniere immediately assumed the responsibilities of Chairperson and conducted the remainder of the meeting.

5. **CROSS CULTURAL COMMUNICATION SERIES**

Commissioners will review and discuss the upcoming Cross-Cultural workshop planned for the month of March.

Mr. Logan clarified that this item was added to the agenda in order to encourage Commissioner attendance at the March 21 performance entitled, Tonga: The Last Kingdom of the Polynesian Islands.

Vice-Chair Seiden noted a conflict. Chair deLaFreniere opined that the information circulated about the performance indicated attendance would be worth while. Mr. Logan mentioned that the event was being advertised on City Channel 11.

Chair deLaFreniere announced that the next event will occur on April 11, at 6 p.m.

Mr. Logan earmarked the Religious Unity in a Very Diverse World event on April 11th and 20th. He noted that it would focus on the many different religious faiths for the purpose of educating the Scottsdale community in the different religions. Mr. Logan recalled the criticism from unreasonable detractors during the Muslim event.

Commissioner Padwe remarked that there are many interfaith groups in the Valley. Commissioner Tyler mentioned that Bruce Johnson is the head of the Scottsdale Interfaith Council. Mr. Logan noted that the head of the state wide organization was named as one of Scottsdale's Diversity Champions.

6. **HISPANIC HERITAGE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

Commissioners will identify a member of the Commission to serve as liaison to the City of Scottsdale employee Diversity Advisory Committee in the planning of its annual Hispanic Heritage Community celebration.

Mr. Logan reported that the employee Diversity Advisory Committee is in the planning stages. He mentioned that the venue has changed from El Dorado Park to the Civic Center Mall on September 30. The event will be similar to those in the past with the addition of an art component.

Mr. Logan invited the Human Relations Commission to participate. He noted that there was a need for a representative that would be able to work with the Committee to plan the event.

Vice-Chair Seiden remarked that she volunteered last year and could not attend the meetings because they were held during the day; she indicated that she would be able to attend a meeting in the late afternoon.

Commissioner Padwe remarked that she was to attend a recent meeting, which was cancelled at the last minute. Mr. Logan explained the last minute time change was due to a joint meeting with some community stake holders in order to discuss the rational of moving from El Dorado Park to the Civic Center Mall. Mr. Logan opined that in order for the event to become successful, it needs to be held at the Civic Center Mall where all of the other big events are held.

In response to an inquiry by Chair deLaFreniere, Mr. Logan reported an estimated two-thousand people attended the last event and there are parking facilities near the Civic Center that could accommodate in access of fifteen thousand.

Mr. Logan reported that Hispanic art from Mexico, Chili, Porto Rico, and other Spanish speaking countries will be part of the celebration. Commissioner Padwe opined that the art aspect would draw non-Hispanic people to the event.

Chair deLaFreniere requested a confirmed time for the planning meetings before making any commitments. Vice-Chair Seiden suggested that she and Commissioner Padwe share the commitment in order to ensure representation at every meeting. Vice-Chair Seiden and Commissioner Padwe agreed that a 3:30 time would be acceptable. Mr. Logan reiterated that he will communicate to the Committee that there are two committed Human Relations Commission members that will alternate their attendance, noting that it is imperative that the meetings be held at 3:30 p.m. with a couple of weeks notice.

7. **CHAIR REPORTS**

The Chair of the SHRC will update the SHRC on the status of current events and activities of the Human Relation Commission including, but not limited to, upcoming events, current issues, and program highlights, including correspondence received or sent since the last commission meeting.

Chair deLaFreniere mentioned that there have been a great deal of things happening in the GLBT community including organization meetings with the Governor. She recommended that the Scottsdale Human Relations Commission get involved with GLBT month in June. She mentioned the Pride Parade and noted her involvement along with some of the controversy that has come up in years past. Chair deLaFreniere suggested the City of Scottsdale could get together with some of the other communities such as Tempe to participate.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Tyler, Chair deLaFreniere explained that some hate groups have protested in past years. She added that the last few years there have been no problems and the crowds have grown significantly; there has been increasing involvement of different organizations. She clarified that the event is an entire month long.

Chair deLaFreniere suggested getting some sort of information out to let the community know where to go in the City of Scottsdale for support. She noted that currently if there are issues, people go to Phoenix because they have a special officer. She reiterated that Scottsdale should put up fliers of support giving information about how to receive support if there are legal or discrimination issues.

Chair deLaFreniere opined this would be a good time to create a resource for support through the Police Department because there is a new police chief. She suggested that the officer in the hate crime bureau should be the contact person.

Commissioner Tutelman suggested going jointly on a booth with another community and using the Human Relations Commissions existing brochures with an insert containing contact information for reporting hate crimes. Mr. Logan opined that including contact information for the Human Relations Commission would give people that do not have confidence in the Police Department another resource. Chair deLaFreniere volunteered to consult with commissions from other communities.

Mr. Logan mentioned adding the idea of a joint effort to the agenda for the Regional HRC meeting on February 28, at the Library in Tempe. He noted that the Commissioners should mark that date on their calendars.

8. **COMMISSIONER ITEMS**
Commissioners will update the SHRC and staff on the status of current events and activities of Human Relations Commission including, but not limited to upcoming events, current issues, and program highlights, including correspondence received since the last commission meeting.

Commissioner Tutelman mentioned that he enjoyed participating in the Unity Walk. He highlighted that there were two staging areas; Scottsdale staged with Phoenix and accompanied by a fire engine and a motorcycle escort, they converged with the group from the other staging area. Mr. Logan added that Queen Creek was to be with Scottsdale and Phoenix but did not participate. Commissioner Tutelman continued, explaining that the walk ended at Indian School Park where there were Native American events and a Black Heritage month celebration.

Mr. Logan opined there were many things that went wrong from a marketing standpoint, noting the plan is to move the event to a new city every couple of years and this was the first year in Phoenix. He mentioned costs were minimized because APS sponsored the Black Heritage month celebration.

Commissioner Tutelman recalled that attendance was half as many as last year. Vice-Chair Seiden suggested the event was not publicized well. Mr. Logan elaborated the event was not certain to happen until a week ahead of time. He opined that part of the publicity in the past came from issues surrounding the event.

Vice-Chair Seiden thanked Mr. Logan for the beautiful job he did with the MLK dinner, noting the event was very well attended.

Mr. Logan clarified that Commissioner Tutelman was instrumental on the planning committee. Commissioner Tyler commended Mr. Logan for his strong leadership during the planning process.

In response to an inquiry by Vice-Chair Seiden, Mr. Logan clarified that the event was sold out in December and the empty tables were a surprise. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that the speaker, Julian Bond, was an excellent choice. Commissioner Tyler commented that because of informal suggestions they are considering inviting either Colin Powell, James Earl Jones, or Morgan Freeman to next year's dinner.

Commissioner Tyler remarked that he accidentally attended a Black Chamber of Commerce meeting while waiting for a different meeting to start. He mentioned that after the meeting, Cody Williams requested to attend and address the Human Relations Commission; however, the conversation did not continue any further. Mr. Logan committed to follow-up with Mr. Williams to find out if there was anything substantive about the comment.

Commissioner Tyler opined that the subject of going out into the public should be revisited in order to advance the cause of their work. Vice-Chair Seiden reminded him that the Commission did do some of that last year, with no response. A discussion ensued concerning ways to bring the public in, including advertising a specific focus along with a time and location for the meeting.

Commissioner Padwe inquired as to what would be an appropriate response to seeing a homeless person on the street. Mr. Logan responded that if it appears that the person's health and safety is at risk, it would be appropriate to call the police. He added that some people don't want help but those that respond favorably can be referred to an agency that will give them assistance.

9. **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC(A.R.S. § 38-431.02):**
Subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions, as determined by the Chairman, members of the public will be allowed to address the Human Relations Commission on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

No comments.

10. **STAFF LIAISON ITEMS**
Staff Liaison will update SHRC on the status of requested presentations, upcoming events, current issues, and program highlights, as well as any correspondence received since the last commission meeting. Commissioners will review and discuss information presented and make decisions accordingly.

Mr. Logan announced that Aubrey Strickstein has officially resigned from the Commission. For the record, the letter of resignation sent to the Mayor read as follows: "I want to thank you personally for suggesting to me several years ago that I get involved with the City. I enjoyed the last three years that I have served as a Commissioner of the Scottsdale Human Relations Commission. I have met and worked with many wonderful people, in particular my fellow Commissioners, Don Logan and Velicia McMillan. Due to personal circumstances, I am personally resigning immediately from my position. Thank you again for your support."

Mr. Logan reported that this creates a vacancy in addition to the vacancies expected this year. He noted that Vice-Chair Seiden and Commissioner Padwe's terms were both expiring in 2006; they both expressed interest in being considered for reappointment.

Chair deLaFreniere asked if it would be possible to contact the gentleman that ran against her, recalling that he had a lot of good credentials and was very passionate. Mr. Logan will look into acquiring that information.

Mr. Logan reported there have been inquiry's from the Scottsdale schools about the Promoting Unity in the Community program.

He announced that Velicia's promotion is permanent; she is now the Learning and Organizational Development Director. Recruitment for her replacement has been opened.

Mr. Logan thanked the Commissioners for volunteering to help with the Hispanic Heritage Celebration Committee. He announced that internally they will be having two events: first, the Cinco de Mayo Celebration, to be held on May 4, and the second event is tentatively scheduled for June 17.

Mr. Logan reiterated that the Regional HRC Exchange will be held on February 28, in the Tempe Library program room, which is located in the lower level. He confirmed that those meetings would be public discussions and initiatives that the Human Relations Commission is taking a lead on.

Commissioner Tyler thanked Commissioner Tutelman for his service as Chair of the Human Relations Commission for the last two years.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission cannot discuss or vote on items not on the agenda, including items brought up as Commission or public comments. If action by the Commission is required, the item should be placed on the next meeting's agenda to be consistent with the Arizona Open Meetings Law.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc.